# CRYPTOGRAPHIC ELECTRONIC GIFT CERTIFICATE

**Abstract:** A software system that produces secure and easy to distribute electronic gift certificates. Electronic gift certificates that are electronically signed (18) using the certificate issuer's public and private electronic signature keys. The keys are based on Public Key Infrastructure algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman or RSA Pat No 4,405,829. Issuers of these certificates will have established relationships with vendors, entities who will exchange goods/services for the face value of the certificate. The issuer's public key, which is used to validate a certificate, is sent to vendors (35). When a certificate recipient presents the certificate to the vendor for redemption (43), the software uses the issuer's public key that was given to the vendor to validate the certificate (40). The vendor software submits the redeemed certificate to the issuer (44) so that the vendor can be reimbursed.